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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/718,670	11/24/2003	Yoshihiko Sugawara	01-520	1631
23400	7590	11/22/2004	EXAMINER	
POSZ & BETHARDS, PLC 11250 ROGER BACON DRIVE SUITE 10 RESTON, VA 20190			NGUYEN, CUONG H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3661	

DATE MAILED: 11/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/718,670	SUGAWARA, YOSHIHIKO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	CUONG H. NGUYEN	3661	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/24/03.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is the answer to the communication received on 11/24/2003.
2. Claims 1-7 are pending in this application.

Priority

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on JPO 2003-4328 filed on 1/10/2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipate by Lynn Woods "Getting there via computer - computerized mapping software..." .

A. As for claims 1, 7: Woods discloses that pending claimed functions are fundamental to MapQuest software (i.e., inherent functions are performed by a CPU and a store database when searching with MapQuest.com).

Lynn Woods inherently teaches a map search system and a method using map data, comprising:

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- a selecting unit for selecting an item that is used for retrieving an on-map position that is a position on the map data (see Lynn Woods's article, page 1 lines 5, and 25 - a capability to pin-point a location on a detailed map);
- an information storing unit for storing a plurality of wherein a given search information plurality of search retrieving an on-map position that is related search information items, item is related to a given search area of areas and used for to the given search information item within the given search area (i.e., point of interest or street names .etc., see Lynn Woods's article, page 3 line 11, and page 2 lines 26-31);
- a retrieving unit for retrieving, within a targeted search area of the search areas, an on-map position corresponding to the selected item by collating the selected item with search information items related to the targeted search area; an area-designating information storing unit for storing a plurality of area-designating information items, wherein an area-designating information item is related to one of the search areas (this claimed retrieving unit is a capable function of MapQuest.com software - see Lynn Woods's article, page 2 line 33);

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- a determining unit for determining whether the selected item corresponds to any one of the area-designating information items (see Lynn Woods's article, a CPU that runs MapQuest.com software, page 3 line 11); and
- an area designating unit for designating, when the selected item is determined to correspond to a certain area-designating information item that is related to a certain search area, the certain search area as the targeted search area (see Lynn Woods's article, page 2 line 33).

B. As for claims 2-3: Lynn Woods inherently teaches a map search system (i.e., Mapquest.com) comprising an area-designating information storing unit stores the area-designating information items that include words indicating areas included in the respective search areas; an address-book storing unit for storing a plurality of address-book information items, each of which at least includes a name indicating a facility that is present in a given position and an address information item of the given position, wherein the selecting unit selects the item that is a given address-book information item of the address-book information items (see Lynn Woods's article, page 2 line 19-22), and wherein the determining unit "links"/collates the address information item included in the given address-book

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information item with the area-designating information items (see Lynn Woods's article, page 2 lines 26, 40, and 47).

D. As for claim 4: Lynn Woods inherently teaches a map search system (i.e., Mapquest.com) wherein an area designating unit includes an updating/a notifying unit for updating/notifying an effect that the area designating unit designates the certain search area as the targeted search area when the area designating unit designates the certain search area as the targeted search area (see Lynn Woods's article, page 1 lines 18, and 28).

E. As for claim 5: Lynn Woods inherently teaches a map search system (i.e., Mapquest.com) comprising a selection unit for change/select/switch a certain search area as the targeted search area by switching from a previous search area into the certain search area, the area designating unit switches back from the certain search area into the previous search area as the targeted search area after completing retrieving within the certain search area - i.e., Woods teaches to narrow-down a "local" mapping area with "PANNING IN" functions.

F. As for claim 6: Lynn Woods inherently teaches a map search system (i.e., Mapquest.com) comprising:

- a pre-determining unit for determining whether the selected item corresponds to any one of the area-designating

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information items that are related to the target search area

(see Lynn Woods's article, page 2 line 33), wherein when the

* pre-determining unit determines that the selected item does

not correspond to an area-designating information items that

are related to the target search area, the determining unit

then determines whether the selected item corresponds to a

* area-designating information items (please note that the

above "determining" function is a capability of MapQuest.com

when NOT finding the exact MATCH).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier

* communications from the examiner should be directed to CUONG H.

NGUYEN whose telephone number is 703-305-4553. The examiner can

normally be reached on 7am - 3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are

* unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, THOMAS G. BLACK can be

reached on 703-305-8233. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application is assigned is 703-305-7687.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cuonghnguyen

CHAN
CUONG H. NGUYEN
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3661